

**June 26, 2014 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, July 24, 2014

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the June 26 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the May 22 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Bill Barnert, Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Maggie Giles, Mike McKenna, Mal Malme, Lesley Phillips

Commissioners Absent: (excused) –Kristina Mastropasqua, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Paul Miller, John Gintell, Neil Scannell, Anna Weick, Bob Parlin, Caitlin Drechsler, Kara Smith

Guests: Chris Burke (Supt. of Police)

Welcome

Budget

The Commission will have a new budget on July 1, with another \$2,500.

Past Events

River Festival – June 7

The event was in a new location near Central Square.

Our table received frequent visitors throughout the event.

Pride Brunch – June 14

There were a lot of first-time visitors to Pride Brunch this year.

The original bus, to bring people to the Boston Pride Parade, broke down.

The new bus came too late, so the City is not paying for it.

All of the award-winners and presenters did a fantastic job.

CCTV filmed the entire event. John Wambere's speech is posted on the CCTV website.

Future Events

We need to keep the fall teacher event in mind.

Danehy Park Family Day – late September

We will decide at our July meeting about whether to participate this year.

Police Department Report by Superintendent Chris Burke

Owen O'Riordon, Commissioner of DPW, called Chris Burke recently to arrange a meeting regarding LGBT sensitivity training for DPW staff as part of a diversity and sexual

harassment training.

There would likely be two separate trainings, one for the management and supervisors and one for all other workers, including union personnel.

They would like to start an internal DPW dialogue prior to the trainings to help get everyone's support. The focus is to change the culture and to instill a sense of accountability throughout the organization.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Peterson asked Chris to help to arrange LGBT cultural competency training for all municipal employees, at the request of the GLBT Commission. Chris is looking into the next steps to take to get things going. He has reached out to his contacts, including Mass Equality. He reports that the level of support from both the City Manager and Deputy City Manager is unprecedented.

Mary Bonauto from Mass Equality has asked the Cambridge Police Department to be part of amicus briefs in the Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and Michigan same-sex marriage cases. The briefs are from the perspective of LGBT law enforcement personnel.

Interns

The city will fund two interns to work with the Commission, one in the fall and one in the spring.

The fall intern will continue our Seniors project by creating and administering a survey for housing and healthcare facilities about their policies and practices in support of LGBTQ seniors.

The spring intern will do a similar survey of the local youth afterschool programs and services.

We need a small group of Commissioners to work on an intern plan and will form that committee in July.

We currently don't know specifics about start dates for the interns.

New Member

We are not recommending any new members to the Commission to fill the vacant spot.

Bayard Rustin Service Award

We need to figure out how to get more nominations and get them earlier (farther in advance of the event).

Getting previous winners involved in the nomination, and perhaps the decision-making process, could help accomplish these goals.

Fall Event

Bill proposed an event, put on with local GSAs, Bisexuality in the 21st Century, with a panel discussion to compare and contrast the life of a bisexual person coming out now to someone coming out in the 20th century.

Maggie questioned having GSAs and adults a part of the same discussion. How well will each group respond to working together at the same event? How do the adult concerns and

the youth concerns overlap?

Lesley suggested contacting the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and the Boston Bisexual Men's Network to support an event like this.

Aren suggested that if there was a youth focus for the event that some youth be on the organizing committee.

We had originally thought of holding an event in November about transgender issues to coincide with Transgender Remembrance Day. Steven suggested that we have the resources to do both events.

At the July meeting, we will discuss these possible events. Commissioners should come to the meeting with any ideas they might have.

Employee Standards of Conduct

Aren will continue efforts to change the language to the Cambridge Employees Standards of Conduct to read "gender identity and expression" where appropriate.

Members of the Communications Committee will do the same for our website.

Oral History Project

Sarah Boyer (Cambridge Historical Commission) recorded some oral histories at the May 16th Marriage Equality event. She would like some help in deciding what to do with these. A past applicant to the Commission is interested in working on this project. Aren will connect the two of them.

May 16th Event

Steven reminded us that we were going to create a Marriage Equality web page to highlight Cambridge's historic role and that Neil MacInnes-Barker recorded video footage that night that was intended to be made accessible and public.

Public Comment

A member of the public brought a personal matter to our attention in case she wants help from the Commission at a later date.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm